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## Support for Jenny Hobbs' nomination for the Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award

2 messages

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**Christy Koury** <christy@kourydesign.com>

Wed, Jul 10, 2024 at 8:57 AM

To: awards@nccdd.org

Cc: Shields Kris <Kris2public@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am writing to submit my supportive statement for the nomination of Jenny Hobbs for the Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award:

I met Jenny Hobbs almost 20 years ago through the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation. Jenny and I both have mitochondrial disease and have children affected by mitochondrial disease. Many children, including my own, have autism and developmental delays as a symptom of their mito.

Initially, Jenny helped me guide families who needed intense support but were waitlisted for CAP-MR/DD slots through their US Senators' offices to get help. Over the years, Jenny continued to help me advocate for my children and others in NC until she naturally migrated into a case management job where she could help kids professionally with advocacy and CAP-C and Innovations waiver services.

When Jenny's medical situation worsened, she stopped working, but she did not stop advocating. She and another woman formed a Facebook group called Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC and shared helpful information with NC families there. Eventually, they formed a non-profit group of the same name.

Strictly out of the goodness of her heart, Jenny began speaking to state representatives, sitting in on committee meetings, and gathering information which she shared with her online group. She also organized parents to lobby for needed changes in the waivers as well as for other issues that affect our children, like protecting our rights to wear masks in public because of our medical fragility.

Most recently, she and her non-profit partner put together an absolutely amazing website, fragilekidsNC.org. I encourage you to check it out, keeping in mind that this was built by a handful of mere volunteers, spearheaded by Jenny Hobbs.

In short, Jenny Hobbs has worked tirelessly for almost two decades to bring information to and to advocate for families of disabled and developmentally delayed children in North Carolina. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christy Koury

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**Kris Shields** <kris2public@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 10, 2024 at 12:48 PM

To: Christy Koury <christy@kourydesign.com>

Cc: awards@nccdd.org

Very nicely done. I love it! Getting ready to write mine now.

[Quoted text hidden]